

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 296827

62

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY AF:RJTIERNEY:WLK

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

S/S:FVORTIZ

----- 020062

O 070009Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296827

NODIS

FOR WISNER AND GOVERNOR SCRANTON ONLY

FOL RPT LONDON 19640 ACTION SECSTATE 6 DEC QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19640

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH COMMONWEALTH SYG
RAMPHAL

1. SCHAUFEELE, WISNER AND SEITZ CALLED ON RAMPHAL EVENING
OF DECEMBER 5. RAMPHAL DESCRIBED HIS RECENT MEETINGS
WITH BOTH CROSLAND AND CALLAGHAN. HE FOUND CROSLAND MORE
WILLING TO DEFEND IN CABINET THE IDEA OF A BRITISH ROLE
IN AN INTERIM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. CROSLAND SEEMED
COMFORTED BY THE PROSPECT OF A COMMONWEALTH ROLE AS WELL.
CALLAGHAN IS OUTWARDLY MORE CAUTIOUS AND HAS NOT YET
SIGNALLED HIS STAND TO HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES. RAMPHAL
BELIEVES CALLAGHAN IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A SUBSTANTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 296827

BRITISH ROLE IN SALISBURY BUT WANTS TO HOLD BACK UNTIL

THE LIMITS OF THAT ROLE EMERGE MORE CLEARLY. HE IS ALSO
WARY OF THE CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION WHICH, ON THE ONE
HAND, SUPPORTS A BRITISH COMMITMENT IN RHODESIA, AND ON
THE OTHER IS READY TO POUNCE ON THE FIRST GOVERNMENT
MISTAKE.

2. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO PROGRESS IN GENEVA.
RAMPHAL SAID IT IS BECOMING CLEAR THAT THE NATIONALISTS
ARE NOT WILLING TO SETTLE WITHIN THE TERMS OF SMITH'S
FIVE POINTS. HOW HARD THE RHODESIANS INTEND TO PRESS FOR
AGREEMENT ON THESE POINTS WILL EMERGE WHEN SMITH RETURNS
TO GENEVA THIS WEEK. SCHAUFLELE DESCRIBED OUR CONCERN THAT
THE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS ARE BACKING OFF THE ORIGINAL UNDER-
STANDING WHICH LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIVE POINTS.
HE SAID THE AFRICANS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE POINTS

FORMED AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT AN
INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF
POWER-SHARING. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT SMITH
HOLDS POWER, SCHAUFLELE SAID, AND THE RELINQUISHING OF
THAT POWER MUST BE NEGOTIATED WITH HIM. RAMPHAL COM-
MENTED THAT TACTICS IN GENEVA HAD EVOLVED IN AN UNFORTU-
NATE WAY. THE NATIONALISTS HAD SPENT FIVE WEEKS IN HARD
BARGAINING WITH THE BRITISH RATHER THAN IN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE WHITE DELEGATION. SMITH'S ATTITUDE HAS BEEN
ALMOST NONCHALANT, AND HE HAS NOT YET BEEN FORCED TO
SHOW HIS HAND. RAMPHAL ADDED THAT MUCH OF THE SUSPICION
AND DISTRUST THAT HAS ENVELOPED GENEVA WOULD BE RELIEVED
IF SMITH BOWED OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ENTIRELY. HIS
DEPARTURE FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE WOULD LEAD TO A MAJOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE AFRICAN APPROACH TO THE
CONFERENCE.

3. RAMPHAL THEN REFERRED TO THE TRANSITION PERIOD IN
THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID HE SUSPECTS THE AFRICANS--
BOTH THE NATIONALISTS AND THE PRESIDENTS--SENSE A
LESSENING OF PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON, A POSSIBLE RE-
LAXATION OF OUR OWN COMMITMENT TO THE FRAMEWORK OF NE-
GOTIATIONS. LATER IN THE CONVERSATION RAMPHAL ADDED THAT
WHITEHALL ALSO SEEMED TO SENSE AN ABATEMENT OF U.S.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 296827

PRESSURE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE CORRECT THIS IMPRESSION
BOTH AMONG THE AFRICANS AND IN LONDON. SCHAUFLELE SAID
THAT IF AFRICANS ANTICIPATE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN
AMERICAN POLICY UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION THEY ARE
MISTAKEN. HE SAID THIS MESSAGE HAD BEEN ABUNDANTLY CON-
VEYED BY CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AT THE AAI
DIALOGUE IN MASERU. WISNER SAID THE AFRICANS SHOULD
ALSO BE REMINDED THAT AS A NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES

OFFICE IN WASHINGTON IT IS BOUND TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH LONG STANDING MAJOR AMERICAN INTERESTS, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC. RAMPHAL TOOK THESE POINTS AND WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO INJECT SOME REALITY INTO AFRICAN EXPECTATIONS.

4. RAMPHAL THEN OUTLINED HIS IDEAS ON HOW THE COMMONWEALTH MIGHT ASSIST A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA. HE SAID THAT ONCE THE CONFERENCE HAS DEFINED THE LIMITS OF A BRITISH ROLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT THE COMMONWEALTH COULD MOVE TO FILL WHATEVER GAP REMAINED. THE NATIONALISTS MIGHT PROPOSE A COMMONWEALTH PRESENCE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT DURING THE TALKS OR RAMPHAL HIMSELF MIGHT PUBLICLY SUGGEST THE SOLUTION. IN ANY EVENT, HE ENVISAGES A COMMONWEALTH "ADVISORY" GROUP OF PERHAPS 200 DRAWN FROM CANADA, NIGERIA, INDIA AND PERHAPS AUSTRALIA AND THE CARIBBEAN (RAMPHAL HERE ELABORATED HIS IDEAS REPORTED IN LONDON 18199). HE FORESEES THE CONFERENCE TURNING ON THE QUESTION OF SECURITY, AND WHILE HE DISCOUNTS THE LIKELIHOOD OF A COMMONWEALTH PEACEKEEPING FORCE, HE BELIEVES COMMONWEALTH INDIVIDUALS COULD ASSUME KEY COMMAND POSITIONS IN RHODESIA AND PERHAPS TAKE OVER THE TRAINING AND INTEGRATION OF ZIPA SOLDIERS.

5. RAMPHAL MENTIONED THAT THE NIGERIANS ARE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. HE SAID OBASANJO IS NOW DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN THE CRISIS WHICH LIMITS GARBA'S IMPACT. RAMPHAL QUIETLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ANYOKU REPRESENTS NIGERIA AT THE CONFERENCE MORE THAN THE COMMONWEALTH. HE STRESSED THAT OBASANJO CAN BE PERSUADED TO ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY IF HE IS CONSULTED AND APPROACHED AT THE RIGHT TIME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 296827

ARMSTRONG

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, MEETING REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE296827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJTIERNEY:WLK
Enclosure: FOR WISNER AND SCRANTON ONLY
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760009-0083
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761266/aaaaceon.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH COMMONWEALTH SYG RAMPHAL
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, (RAMPHAL, SHRIDATH S)
To: GENEVA USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006